

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: AF/E:ESHIPPY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194143

FOR AMBASSADOR MARSHALL

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 7884 SENT SECSTATE INFO SECDEF NAIROBI
DATED AUGUST 14.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7884

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, ICE

SUBJECT: F-5 AIRCRAFT FOR KENYA

REF: STATE 189503

1. CARMISH MAAG AND EMBASSY HAVE REVIEWED ALL RECORDS OF
COMMUNICTAIONS WITH GOI OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT OF F-5'S FOR KENYA.
AT NO TIME DID ANY IRANIAN OFFICIAL MAKE COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE
F-5A/B'S USG HOPED TO DELIVER TO KENYA. UNTIL RECEIPT OF SECDEF
MESSAGE OF MAY 17(1501Z) WHICH AUTHORIZED US TO REQUEST GOI TO
SELL PLANES BACK TO USG AT \$106,000 FOR OCTOBER DELIVERY TO
KENYA, ALL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI, ON WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS,
HAD BEEN EXPLORATORY AND TENTATIVE IN NATURE. WE HAD REPEATEDLY
CAUTIONED STATE AND OD THAT THERE WAS NO GOI COMMITMENT, THAT
THERE MIGHT BE SHORTAGE OF A-MODELS, AND THAT USG SHOULD APPROACH
GOI OFFICIALLY WITH OUR COORDINATED PLAN FOR DISPOSING OF F-5'S
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BEFORE IRANIANS MADE OTHER PLANS FOR THEM(TEHRAN 3820, 4068 AND

4581).

2. WITH REGARD TO BASIS ON WHICH SPECIFIC F-5'S WERE EARMARKED FOR KENYA IN CARMISH MAAG 131031Z MAY , IN MEMOS OF MARCH 8 AND APRIL 6 TO GENERAL TOUFANIAN, MAAG REQUESTED AVAILABILITY DATES OF MAP AND FMS F-5A/B'S BY TAIL NUMBERS "SO THAT ADEQUATE PLANS MAY BE MADE FOR FUTURE DISPOSITIONS." TOUFANIAN PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION IN MEMO OF APRIL 22. BECAUSE AT THAT TIME WE WERE RECEIVING NUMEROUS AND SOMETIMES CONFLICTING MESSAGES ABOUT USG'S PLANNED DISPOSITION OF AIRCRAFT, MAAG SENT 131031Z LISTING SUGGESTED RECIPIENTS OF INDIVIDUAL AIRCRAFT BY AVAILABILITY DATE IN ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES WERE READING FROM SAME SHEET OF MUSIC. THAT MESSAGE MADE PLAIN THAT TAIL NUMBERS AND DESIGNATIONS WERE FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND DID NOT PRECLUDE DIFFERENT DISPOSITION OF AIRCRAFT.

3. AS FOR QUESTION OF WHETHER DIRECT APPROACH TO SHAH MIGHT RESULT IN REVERSAL OF DECISION, WE THINK IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY UNLESS WE REALLY LEANED ON HIM AND WERE PREPARED TO PAY A HIGH POLITICAL COST. SHAH MADE DECISION TO OFFER ADDITIONAL F-5'S TO JORDAN IN RESPONSE TO KING HUSSEIN'S REQUEST. SHAH HIMSELF HAS ALREADY CONSIDERED AND DECIDED AGAINST REQUEST WE MADE ON BASIS OF STATE 174497 THAT 10 PLANES GO TO KENYA INSTEAD. SINCE IIAF NOW PLANS TO USE SOME OF THESE AIRCRAFT FOR ITS OWN PILOT TRAINING UNTIL IT HAS SUFFICIENT F-5E/F'S, IT IS NOT SIMPLY QUESTION OF DECIDING BETWEEN ONE THIRD-COUNTRY RECIPIENT OR ANOTHER FOR REMAINING A/B-MODELS BUT INVOLVES STRIPPING IIAF OF WHAT IT THINKS IT NEEDS FOR ITSELF.
HELMS UNQUOTE SISCO

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